



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

APEC Senior Officials' Report on
**Economic and
Technical
Cooperation 2021**



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021 SENIOR OFFICIALS' REPORT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

**SOM Steering Committee on Economic and
Technical Cooperation**

November 2021

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Letter from the SCE Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2021 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation.

The SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) and its sub-fora have adapted to living and working in the shadow of COVID-19, meeting virtually three times in 2021. The SCE and its sub-fora continued the important work of economic and technical cooperation guided by the APEC 2021 theme of “Join, Work, Grow. Together. Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē.” and the ECOTECH medium-term priorities.

The SCE continues to emphasize cross-fora collaboration, increasing collaborative work streams amongst SCE fora and between SCE fora and the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) and the Economic Committee (EC) and their fora. SCE's annual Committee of the Whole discussions are designed to help SCE sub-fora convenors and members identify to cross-fora issues and opportunities, and identify synergies between host economy priorities and fora work streams.

Consistent with the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and our commitment to the continuous improvement of APEC as an institution through good governance, the SCE has assessed all SCE sub-fora using the standardized fora assessment template endorsed in 2020. This allowed the SCE to have an entire suite of fora assessments prior to the expiration of Terms of Reference at the end of 2021. The fora assessment process also presents an opportunity for the SCE to monitor the progress and success of the sub-fora with the objective to ensure sub-fora's effective and timely implementation of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 as well as to strengthen APEC's relevancy in the post-COVID world.

This Report highlights some of the many activities of the SCE and its working groups and policy partnerships. These activities are guided by the ECOTECH medium term priorities. I am pleased to highlight that the efforts of SCE and its sub-fora in 2021 contributed to the development of key APEC deliverables in the areas of increasing inclusion and sustainability as well as pursuing innovation and a digitally-enabled recovery.

In presenting this Report, I wish to acknowledge the commitment, hard work, and contributions of APEC members, the SCE sub-fora and our dedicated fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds, and the 2021 Assessment Team. I would also like to thank the APEC Secretariat for the continued support to ensure the success of all SCE and SCE sub-fora meetings.

There remains a lot to do in the economic and technical cooperation agenda, including ensuring the ECOTECH medium term priorities align with the Putrajaya Vision. I look forward to continuing our work in 2022 and to working closely with the incoming SCE Chair.

With my warmest regards,



Cherdchai Chaivaivid
Chair, SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH

Executive Summary

In 2021, the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) held three meetings. The meetings were hosted by 2021 APEC host New Zealand and conducted via videoconference with Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid as Chair. Mr. Chaivaivid is Thailand's Senior Official for APEC. The SCE Vice Chair was Mr. Thomas Haidon from New Zealand. The SCE also organized the 16th annual SCE Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW) meeting and an informal meeting of SCE sub-fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds. In addition, the SCE also conducted business through intersessional discussion.

The SCE continues its central role in the administration of SCE sub-fora. SCE approved 15 Annual Work Plans. The SCE undertook assessment of 14 SCE sub-fora; completing assessment of all SCE sub-fora in 2021. The SCE reviewed and endorsed the 2022-2025 Terms of Reference of ten SCE sub-fora: ACTWG, ATCWG, EGILAT, HRDWG, OFWG, PPSTI, PPWE, TELWG, TPTWG, and TWG.

The SCE also carries out economic and technical cooperation activities through cross-cutting policy initiatives and projects in the Committee. Over the course of the year the SCE has conducted various workshops and published several reports. Specific information on these activities can be found in Section 1.

In addition to SCE's central role in the administration of SCE sub-fora, SCE also oversees and coordinates the work of SCE's 15 sub-fora. Some of the notable outcomes this year include:

The Health Working Group (HWG) and Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) co-contributed to the 11th APEC High Level Meeting (HLM10) on Health and the Economy with the theme "Making the Economic Case for Health Equity in a COVID-19 World".

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) and the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) supported New Zealand in its hosting of the 6th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.

The Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) supported New Zealand in its hosting of the Women and the Economy Forum in September 2021, which included a High-Level Policy Dialogue on "Women's Economic Empowerment Beyond COVID-19".

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) contributed to the 27th APEC SME Ministerial Meeting (SMEMM) held in October.

Ten APEC economies made financial contributions to the APEC Support Fund's various sub-funds. The SCE also endorsed the establishment of the Sub-Fund on APEC Cooperation on Combatting COVID-19 and Economic Recovery.

A discussion of the above and other highlights and priorities are set out in Section 2.

Section 3 gives an overview of all sub-fora governance documents. Each forum also reports on projects, both funded by APEC and self-funded by economies, undertaken in 2021 through Fora in

Action tables. The tables include information on which projects and other initiatives of SCE sub-fora addressed the ECOTECH medium term priorities. Additionally, the Fora in Action tables include the achievements of each SCE sub-fora since the 2020 Report.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 2021 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

1. *Note the 2021 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;*
2. *Welcome the achievements of the SCE Working Groups and Policy Partnerships;*
3. *Welcome 2021 contributions to the APEC Support Funds various sub-funds from Australia; Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Chinese Taipei; and the United States.*

1. Introduction

In 2021, the SCE was chaired by Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid, APEC Senior Official for Thailand. The SCE Vice Chair was Mr. Thomas Haidon, for New Zealand.

The Committee met on three occasions during 2021 and accomplished the following:

- a. assessed fourteen (14) SCE sub-fora;
- b. recommended renewal of eleven (11) SCE sub-fora;
- c. discussed ECOTECH policy initiatives and project proposals;
- d. coordinated the work of SCE sub-fora to facilitate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure alignment with the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040;
- e. facilitated the work of SCE sub-fora by providing direction on Work Plans, Strategic Plans, and Terms of Reference.

The first SCE meeting in 2021 was held virtually on 5 March 2021. The SCE discussed its 2021 SCE Work Plan and agreed to continue discussions intersessionally (2021/SOM2/SCE/002). The SCE decided to delay the medium-term ECOTECH Review until 2022, to better align medium-term ECOTECH priorities with the forthcoming Putrajaya Vision Implementation Plan. The 2021 Assessment Team was formed of past, and current SCE Chair economies (New Zealand and Thailand) and the volunteer economies Australia, Canada, China, Russia, and United States. Australia and Canada further volunteered to be the Assessment Team lead economies. The Assessment Team tabled four Standardized Assessment Reports and provided an update of the Fora Assessment Program. The Standardized Fora Assessment Program is discussed further in section 2.5.

The annual SCE Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW) was held virtually on 4 March 2021. It was attended by 21 APEC member economies and 15 SCE sub-fora convenors or their representatives. The SCE endorsed the work plans of six SCE sub-fora: Experts' Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade; Emergency Preparedness Working Group; Policy Partnership for Science, Technology and Innovation; Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group; Telecommunications and Information Working Group; and Tourism Working Group.

The SCE oversaw New Zealand's self-funded project event on 3 March 2021 for *Case Studies on Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth: Understanding and Valuing Indigenous Economies within APEC*. This event and APEC publication of the same name sought to support statisticians, researchers and policy makers within the APEC region to understand and value indigenous economies in their respective economies.

Intersessionally, the SCE endorsed 2021 SCE Work Plan. The SCE also intersessionally endorsed the 2021 work plans for Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group; Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group; Energy Working Group; Health Working Group; Human Resources Development Working Group; Oceans and Fisheries Working Group; Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy; and Transportation Working Group. In addition, the SCE also approved the *Case Studies on Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth: Understanding and Valuing Indigenous Economies* for publication intersessionally. Finally, the SCE endorsed China's proposal to create an

ASF Sub-Fund for APEC Cooperation on Combatting COVID-19 and Economic Recovery (CCER) and the *Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Accessing the APEC Support Fund Sub-fund for CCER*.

The second SCE meeting was held virtually on 27 May 2021. The SCE Assessment Team tabled five Standardized Fora Assessment Reports for discussion and provided an update of the Fora Assessment Program. The SCE also approved for publication of the *Case Study: Best Practices in Smart Cities in a Digital Age* report. This self-funded project, initiated by Chile and China, examined case studies to offer member economies useful knowledge and reference material on successful practices and innovative solutions implemented by other member economies who have overcome similar challenges. The SCE also discussed possible future follow-up work to the recently completed Indigenous Economies and Smart Cities projects.

In June, the SCE oversaw the project event for China and Papua New Guinea's self-funded project *Inclusive Digital Society: Alleviating Poverty and Improving Living Standards through Increased Economic Growth*. Participants discussed policies and practices related to digitally enabled poverty alleviation and improving living standards, including measures to build digital infrastructure and improve digital literacy, use digital technology to help companies, and apply digital technologies in energy, education, and medical industries.

Intersessionally, the SCE endorsed New Zealand's self-funded project proposal on *Understanding the Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples*.

In August, the SCE oversaw a project event for New Zealand's self-funded project *Understanding the Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples*. Participants discussed the economic impacts, opportunities, successes and challenges of COVID-19 facing indigenous peoples including on areas such as indigenous household income, employment, business viability and International trade. Participants considered the role of traditional knowledge in response efforts, capacity building and engagement best practice principles.

On 27 August 2021, New Zealand hosted SCE 3 virtually. The SCE Assessment Team tabled five Standardized Fora Assessment Reports for discussion and provided the final update of the Fora Assessment Program for the year.

Intersessionally, the SCE approved for publication the *Achieving the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal* report. The SCE also intersessionally endorsed the *Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives 2021* and the *SCE Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda 2021*. The SCE intersessionally endorsed the Oceans and Fisheries 2021-2023 Strategic Plan and the Counter Terrorism Working Group's 2021 Work Plan. The SCE approved for publication the *Understanding the Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples* report. The SCE intersessionally endorsed the Emergency Preparedness Working Group's 2022-2025 Terms of Reference.

2. 2021 Highlights and Priorities

2.1 Host Economy Priorities

During the year, the SCE and its sub-fora furthered the 2021 priorities of Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery as well as Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery.

a. Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery

The SCE has led APEC's cross-cutting work on increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery.

During 2021, the SCE oversaw the implementation of *Case Studies on Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth: Understanding and Valuing Indigenous Economies within APEC*. The project sought to increase inclusive economic growth related to indigenous communities allowing APEC to get to the heart of some of the core economic challenges for APEC economies. In a time when all APEC economies are grappling with the impacts and recovery strategies associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the project facilitated the discussion and the pursuit of data to evidence how economies within indigenous communities contribute to inclusive economic growth. The SCE published the report *Case Studies on Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth: Understanding and Valuing Indigenous Economies within APEC* in April.

The SCE further oversaw the implementation of *Understanding the Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples*, which sought to build on the outcomes of the Case Studies project. The workshop focused on the economic impacts, opportunities, successes and challenges of COVID-19 facing indigenous peoples including on areas such as indigenous household income, employment, business viability and international trade. It also considered the role of traditional knowledge in response efforts, capacity building and engagement best practice principles. The SCE published the *Understanding Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples* report in October.

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) has lead in the development of the provisions on the “minimizing food loss and waste” key action area of the Food Security Roadmap as well as its implementation. The ATCWG has collaborated with the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) through workshops on reducing food loss and waste. ATCWG's workshops such as on the practices of circular agriculture also align with the key action areas of the Food Security Roadmap.

The Experts' Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) and the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) published *The Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region*. The Compendium identifies and organizes a range of resources that can provide information on risk profiles, legal information, resources, and tools to facilitate the trade of legal forest products.

The Policy Partnership for Women and the Economy conducted the 6th APEC Business Efficiency and Success Target (BEST) Award as a hybrid event with the theme of “Women's Business: Driver of Inclusive Recovery”. The awards aim to recognize women entrepreneurs in seven categories including those providing Indigenous community support.

The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) published the *Disruptive Technologies and the Changing Nature of Work in the Transportation Sector* report. This project and report aimed to build the capacity of APEC economies to strategically plan for and adapt to the emergence of these new technologies by broadening knowledge on the subject, and providing high-level recommendations on

how to increase opportunities for underrepresented groups while mitigating the negative impacts on displaced workers. The report specifically focused on women and the disabled as workers, who are underrepresented in traditional transportation occupations.

b. Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) conducted 2021 *APEC Initiative on Closing the Digital Skills Gap: A Focus on Measurement and Digital Readiness*. The project sought to help APEC economies better understand 1) the size of the digital skills gap and 2) their level of readiness to address closing the digital skills gap. This will help identify workforce opportunities for individuals in APEC economies as well as encourage collaboration among universities, governments, and employers to close the digital skills gap by 2030. The HRDWG also conducted the *10th Conference on Higher Education*. The Conference sought to address three primary education needs including specifically providing a platform for researchers from the fields of natural science and IT sector to discuss scientific trends in the respective areas and find common ground for joint research.

The Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) conducted several workshops in support of a digitally-enabled recovery including *Report and Workshop on Network Virtualisation, Disaggregated Networks and Open Telecommunications Architecture in APEC* which explored virtualized and/or disaggregated telecommunications networks, as well as open architecture specifications in Radio Access Networks (RAN). The TELWG also conducted *Building a Digital Ready Society* and produced an accompanying report seeking to enhance the mutual learning and understanding on how digital readiness initiatives can aid society to better access technology as well as equip citizens with the skills that are needed to use that technology.

The TPTWG held a thematic session on ‘Facilitating mobility integration through technological innovation’ to discuss the impacts of ‘Mobility as a Service’ on reducing transport emissions, climate change, social equity and provision of safe and affordable accessibility for women and other vulnerable or traditionally underserved transportation users.

2.2 La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth

Following from the endorsement of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth by APEC Ministers in 2019, the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) developed the La Serena Roadmap Implementation Plan in 2020. The Implementation Plan provides direction to APEC fora and sub-fora in determining current and new work streams that may contribute to fulfilling the Roadmap’s key action areas and meeting its targets. It also establishes a process for monitoring, reporting and reviewing progress that will be overseen by Senior Officials. The PPWE engages with other APEC fora and sub-fora to support collective efforts toward implementing the Roadmap.

Beginning in January 2021, the PPWE worked with fora across APEC to develop their Key Action Frameworks (KAF) as outlined in the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth Implementation Plan. The respective fora use those KAFs to report their progress on the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth.

This year marked the first reporting for the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth. At SCE 3, the PPWE Chair presented a summary of how APEC’s work is significantly contributing to the improvement of outcomes for women and girls. As of June 2021, over 100 initiatives have been completed or are underway across sixteen working groups. These are in addition to the initiatives being driven out of the PPWE working group. The PPWE Chair shared that in spite of the challenges of COVID-19, women’s economic empowerment is being thoughtfully addressed across APEC workstreams, in well-targeted and constructive actions. The next reporting will be in 2023

2.3 Implementing the MRT Statement on Safe Passage

Arising from the June 5 Ministers Responsible for Trade Joint Statement, Ministers and Senior Officials requested APEC follow up on a number of issues relating to better support of air crews, facilitation of business mobility across the region, and advance of discussions on digital solutions to facilitate safe travel in the region. These issues span several sub-fora in both SCE and the Committee and Trade and Investment (CTI).

To better advance these discussions and bring about tangible outcomes, the SCE Chair, along with the CTI Chair, convened a meeting of relevant SCE and CTI sub-fora convenors on 10 September. The Convenor of ABAC's Reopening Borders for Safe and Seamless Travel taskforce, Mr. Lam Yi Young also joined the meeting. During the meeting, the convenors, or their representatives of the Business Mobility Group, Health Working Group, Life Sciences Innovation Forum, Transportation Working Group and Tourism Working Group provided updates on work underway in their respective fora to implement the MRT Joint Statement on Safe Passage. In addition, the SCE and CTI Chairs, along with the sub-fora convenors and ABAC representative discussed ways that APEC and ABAC can better work together to implement the MRT Joint Statement on Safe Passage.

2.4 Fora Administration

a. Making Recommendations to SOM on the Terms of Reference of SCE Fora

In accordance with the SCE Terms of Reference, the SCE has the mandate to “review the role and operation of Working Groups and Task Forces with a view to making recommendations to the SOM on establishing, merging, disbanding or reorienting” such working groups and task forces. In 2021, the SCE discussed how to manage the expiration of all SCE sub-fora Terms of Reference in 2021. The SCE assessed 14 sub-fora using a standardized template, which allowed the SCE to make recommendations on renewal to Senior Officials. Please see Table 1 for an overview of fora administration.

b. Approving Strategic Plans

In 2021, the SCE approved one Strategic Plan: Telecommunications and Information Working Group 2021-2024.

c. Approving Annual Work Plans

The Terms of Reference of SCE, as reconfirmed in 2020, mandates SCE to “assess and direct realignment of individual work plans of Working Groups and SOM Policy Partnerships with the APEC-wide medium-term ECOTECH priorities and annual objectives as outlined in the ECOTECH framework” and stipulates that “to this purpose, all Working Groups and Policy Partnerships should submit their strategic and annual work plans to the SCE no later than three weeks prior to SOM 1 for consideration at the SCE-Committee of the Whole.” Fifteen work plans were submitted and fourteen work plans were approved by SCE in 2021 (as reflected in Table 1).

At SCE2 in 2021, the Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat presented a report, *Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives* (2021/SOM2/SCE/002) which noted that most SCE sub-fora focused their activities to respond to the mandates given to them by the Leaders and Ministers. Many sub-fora, such as Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group; Health Working Group; Oceans and Fisheries Working Group; Policy Partnership for Women and the Economy; and Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group specifically cite recent instructions of Ministers. A number of these also refer to 2021 APEC priorities. Most notably, all work plans also make linkages between their specific activities and the relevant ECOTECH Medium Term Priorities, which is facilitated by continued use of a template.

2.5 Revised, Standardized Fora Assessment System

In 2006, the SCE was mandated to conduct a review of APEC working groups and task forces and make recommendations to Senior Officials on establishing, merging, disbanding and reorienting these bodies. Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the SCE review and instructed the SCE to continue efforts to improve the operation and work of its fora (2006/CSOM/14). A program of independent assessments was then developed to evaluate all SCE working groups and task forces every four years and support periodic review processes.

In 2016, the SCE Chair proposed, and members accepted, to conduct a review of the Independent Assessment program. Delegations shared the view that fora assessments should be undertaken in the view of providing broader organizational perspectives and facilitating possible rationalization. Delegations also noted the lack of understanding of APEC among certain assessors, uneven follow-up on recommendations and inconsistencies between the review of fora Terms of References and their assessment schedules. Following this, the Secretariat presented a discussion paper to SCE2 (2016/SOM2/SCE/003), which addressed a number of issues, including quality, focus, schedules across different review and monitoring processes, post-assessment measures and attendant financial/administrative burdens.

At SCE3 in 2016, the SCE approved the Decisions on Fora Assessment as proposed by the Chair (2016/SOM3/SCE/011), the main elements of which include developments of a standardized program for assessments, the establishment of an Assessment Team comprising the representatives from the preceding, current, and subsequent SCE Chairing economies, as well as any other volunteering economies with the assistance from the Secretariat; further follow-up by the Assessment Team on the recommendations; and an optional Comprehensive Fora Review following a full cycle of assessments on all the SCE fora.

In 2018, a standardized template for fora assessment was endorsed by SCE (2018/SOM1/SCE/0024). This template was then used to assess four SCE sub-fora in 2018 (as per Table 1). Upon receipt of the four fora assessments, the Assessment Team determined that the information contained in the reports was not sufficient to allow them to make any recommendations to SCE.

At SCE 1 in 2019, there was discussion regarding the current standardized fora assessment program. Several economies expressed concern regarding the expense of the current program, the length of the reports produced, and the overall usefulness of the resulting reports. A decision was taken to pause the program while the Assessment Team discussed alternative methods of fora assessment.

In 2020 the Assessment Team proposed a new standardized report template. This new standardized report template was endorsed at SCE 3. The first sub-fora assessed using the template was the SMEWG with results tabled at SCE4.

By SCE 3 in 2021, all 15 SCE sub-fora had been assessed using the template designed by the Assessment Team in 2020. The Assessment Team used the reports to develop recommendations for SCE on renewal of SCE sub-fora, which were tabled at SCE 3 (2021/SOM3/SCE/002).

2.6 Cross-Fora Collaboration

Increasing cross-fora collaboration has been under discussion in recent years. A 16th meeting of SCE Fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds (SCE-Committee of the Whole) was held on 4 March 2021 in virtual format. Chairs and Lead Shepherds or their representatives from all 15 of the SCE fora participated. The presence of Chairs, Lead Shepherds or their representatives increased their interactions with each other and Senior Officials, leading to useful practical suggestions for collaborating with other APEC fora. At SCE 2 2021, the APEC Secretariat introduced its report, “*SCE Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda*” (2021/SOM2/SCE/003). To further underscore the importance of cross-fora collaboration, fora are required to report on their cross-fora collaborations in annual fora reports. In addition, the standardized fora assessment program also measures data and indicators relating to cross-fora collaboration. In 2021, SCE and its sub-fora have 200+ projects in implementation. Of those projects, over 30% of them include some manner of cross-fora collaboration. In addition, many sub-fora hold joint meetings with other SCE sub-fora as well as with EC and CTI and its sub-fora.

2.7 APEC Support Fund

In 2004, Ministers endorsed the Australian proposal to set up the APEC Support Fund (ASF) to serve as a flexible funding mechanism. The ASF aims to meet the capacity building needs for developing economy members in APEC's agreed high priority sectors for economic and technical cooperation. Since its inception, the fund has received contributions from many economies.

In 2021, three new ASF sub-funds were established: the Sub-Fund on Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure; the Sub-Fund on APEC Cooperation on Combatting COVID-19 and Economic Recovery; and the Sub-Fund on Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform.

Voluntary contributions by APEC members to the ASF and its sub-funds in 2021 (as of 15 October 2021) were provided or committed by ten economies: Australia; Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Chinese Taipei; and the United States.

Australia provided USD 276,945 to the ASF General Fund, USD 746,994 to the ASF Sub-fund on Enhanced Agenda for Structural Reform and USD 561,375 to the ASF Sub-fund on Women and the Economy.

Canada committed USD 403,324 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Women and the Economy.

China provided USD 1,000,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on APEC Cooperation on Combatting COVID-19 and Economic Recovery, USD 300,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth, and USD 320,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Connectivity.

Hong Kong, China provided USD 1,000,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure.

Japan provided USD 911,366 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Energy Efficiency, Low Carbon and Energy Resiliency Measures.

Korea provided USD 700,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Digital Innovation

Malaysia provided USD 235,267 to the ASF Sub-Fund on APEC Cooperation on Combatting COVID-19 and Economic Recovery.

New Zealand provided USD 36,148 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Women and the Economy.

Chinese Taipei provided USD 500,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Digital Innovation, USD 500,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Women and the Economy, and USD 400,000 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Human Security.

The United States provided USD 555,606 to the ASF Sub-Fund on Women and the Economy.

Table 1: SCE Fora Dashboard

Forum	Terms of Reference	Annual Work Plan	Strategic Plan	Annual Fora Report	Fora Assessment
ACTWG	2022-2025	2021	2019-2022	2021	2021
ATCWG	2022-2025	2021	2015-2019	2021	2021
CTWG	2018-2021	2021	2018-2022	2021	2021
EGILAT	2022-2025	2021	2018-2022	2021	2021
EPWG	2022-2025	2021	2017-2020	2021	2021
EWG	2018-2021	2021	2019-2023	2020	2021
HWG	2018-2021	2021	2016-2020	2021	2021
HRDWG	2022-2025	2021	2017-2020	2020	2021
OFWG	2022-2025	2021	2021-2023	2021	2021
PPSTI	2022-2025	2021	2016-2025	2021	2021
PPWE	2022-2025	2021	2019-2021	2020	2021
SMEWG	2021-2024	2021	2021-2024	2021	2020
TELWG	2022-2025	2021	2021-2025	2021	2021
TPTWG	2022-2025	2021	2018-2020	2021	2021
TWG	2022-2025	2021	2020-2024	2020	2021

3. SCE Fora in Action

The work of SCE is evident in the number and scope of its 15 fora and the projects overseen by those fora.

For a more thorough examination of the work done by each fora, including most recent plenary meeting statistics, gender makeup of meetings, alignment with ECOTECH Priorities, and efforts to implement quality growth, please refer to the Fora in Action tables that follow. Each working group has a table on the following pages.

The table below containing the number of APEC-funded approved projects by fora.

Table 2: SCE Fora Projects by Funding Source

Forum	ASF	GPA	TILF	Total
Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group	2	-	-	2
Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group	-	2	-	2
Counter Terrorism Working Group	-	-	-	-
Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade	-	-	-	-
Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation	10	3	-	13
Emergency Preparedness Working Group	6	-	-	6
Energy Working Group	17	-	-	17
Health Working Group	19	1	-	20
Human Resources Development Working Group	8	1	-	9
Oceans and Fisheries Working Group	6	2	-	8
Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy	-	1	-	1
Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group	7	1	-	8
Telecommunications and Information Working Group	3	-	-	3
Tourism Working Group	6	1	-	7
Transportation Working Group	5	-	-	5
Total*	89	12	-	101

** In Principle Approval during Project Session 1 & 2 of 2021*

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					APEC Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
30 July	20	16	15	Y	2	1	2	51,261
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities <i>(eg. Sustainable Growth)</i>					Sustainable Growth; Technologies and Innovation; Inclusive Growth			
Response to COVID-19					N/A			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPFS, OFWG, PPWE, and ABAC			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	1
Last Website Update	May 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
ATC 02 2020A	APEC Workshop on Practices on Promotion of Circular Agriculture
ATC 01 2021S	APEC Workshop on Practices and Promotion of Sustainable Models of Agricultural Production and Resource Efficiency: Sustainable Materials Management

¹ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group (ACTWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ²	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
18 February (ACTNET)	38	23	18	y	2	2	1	50,000
19 February	31	25	19	y				
25 August	30	27	18	y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					1) Inclusive Growth, addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender 2) Developing human capital through capacity building -Regional economic integration 3) Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth 4) Regional Economic Integration			
Response to COVID-19					N/A			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPWE, EGILAT, SCCP			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Priority Two: Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	1
Last Website Update	May 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	Social media, photos

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
ACT 01 2021S	Workshop on Preventing Corruption in Crisis
ACT 01 2020	Symposium to Develop Gender Sensitivity Training and Guide – To Enhance Gender Mainstreaming and Women’s Empowerment in Fighting Corruption

² Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					No			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ³	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
27 Feb	14	21	15	Y	0	0	0	0
19 Aug	13	26	16	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities <i>(eg. Sustainable Growth)</i>					Human Security			
Response to COVID-19					Discussion on Countering-Terrorism in the context of COVID-19 in SOM1 and SOM3 plenary meetings.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					N/A			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	June 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	Seek social media presence after meetings (one post published after SOM3 2021).

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
N/A	N/A

³ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF)			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁴	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
20-21 May 2021	22	29	18	Y	6	6	2	1,095,800
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Human Security			
Response to COVID-19					EPWG updated the voluntary information sharing on COVID-19 measures particularly that related to emergency preparedness. As of September 2021, 13 EPWG member economies have contributed to the initiative. The document has been uploaded on APEC EPWG page.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HWG representative shared information on the proposed collaboration with EPWG at SOM 3. • PPWE chair discussed the implementation plan of the “The La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth” with EPWG members. • ABAC Taskforce on Disaster Recovery Planning and Risk Management Convenor shared updates on Public-Private Engagement (PPE) in Disaster Response. 			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Increasing inclusion and sustainability for Recovery			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	July 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2021/0621_SDMOF

⁴ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
EPWG 02 2019A	Workshop on Enhancing Participation in Flood Disaster Preparedness through Community-based Hazard Mapping
EPWG 03 2019A	APEC Disaster Risk Management Strategies to Support MSMEs Business Sustainability

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Experts' Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF)			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁵	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
19-20 Feb	46	37	17	Y	-	-	-	-
13-14 Aug	45	43	18	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities <i>(eg. Sustainable Growth)</i>					Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth			
Response to COVID-19					EGILAT members and guests discussed the implications of COVID-19 on illegal logging and associated trade at EGILAT19 meeting.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPWE Chair briefed EGILAT members on the Implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth.			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	September 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
EGILAT 01 2019A	Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region

⁵ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Energy Working Group (EWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2018			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁶	Self- Funded	Total Value ⁷ (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
23-25 Jun	46	71	18	Y	17	17	5	3,290,929
17-21 Oct	41	69	18	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities <i>(eg. Sustainable Growth)</i>					<p>The EWG contributed ECOTECH Priorities such as Sustainable Growth, Regional economic integration, and developing human capital. The EWG continues to increase its focus on responding to natural and man-made resiliency challenges for energy infrastructure and networks that will contribute improving regional economic integration.</p> <p>Many capacity building activities have been carried out through Projects, both APEC funded and Self-funded, which improve the analytical, operational and policy capacity of APEC economies.</p>			
Response to COVID-19					<p>The EWG has studied COVID-19 effects on energy situation, policy and targets in a holistic approach from three aspects (security of supply and demand, safety of infrastructures, welfare of people and communities).</p>			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<p>PPSTI (co-endorsement of a project), AD (encouraging participation to AD meeting dealing with Electric Vehicle Infrastructure), TPTWG.</p>			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<p>The EWG has implemented several APEC-funded projects this year which have organized workshops/symposiums related to promoting renewable energy technologies that support a part of NZ's host year priorities: Pursuing Innovation and Digitally Enabled Recovery.</p>			

⁶ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

⁷ APEC Funding: 2,252,931. Amounts of Self-funded Projects are excluded.

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	7
Last Website Update	July 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
EWG 01 2019A	APEC Low-Carbon Model Town (LCMT) Project Dissemination phase 3
EWG 02 2019A	Filling the Gap to Reach the Goal of Doubling Renewable Energy in the APEC Region-Phase 2
EWG 03 2019A	APEC Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Promoting renewable and Clean Energy Policies
EWG 04 2019A	Exploring Co-Benefit Opportunities for Renewable and Energy Efficiency Projects in the APEC Region
EWG 05 2019A	Sustainable Mobility: Routes for Integrating the Energy and Transport Sectors for Urban Cities
EWG 06 2019A	APEC Workshop on University Collaboration to Support Data Gathering and Analysis in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
EWG 08 2019A	Energy Intensity Reduction in the APEC Regions' Urbanized Cities
EWG 09 2019A	APEC Workshop on the Use of Pumped Storage Hydropower to Enable Greater Renewable Energy Use and Reliable Electricity Supply
EWG 11 2019A	Accommodating Disruptive Technology into RE&EE Policy for Energy Security
EGW 13 2019A	Demonstration and Promotion of Energy Resilience Tool based on Solar-Powered Emergency Shelter Solutions (SPESS) for Natural Disaster in APEC
EWG 02 2020A	APEC Workshop on Achieving Business Sustainability for Clean Energy Start-Ups
EWG 04 2020A	A Community-based Waste to Energy Management Workshop
EWG 01 2021S	19th APEC Workshop on Energy Statistics (APEC-IEA Joint Training Workshop on Energy Efficiency Indicators Part I)
EWG 02 2021S	Report and Virtual Workshop on Lessons Learned and Good Practice from APEC
EWG 03 2021S	APEC Clean Energy Purchasing and Decarbonization Workshop
EWG 04 2021S	Research on Means to Overcome Shortage of Basic Urban Energy-Climate Data
EWG 05 2021S	APEC Symposium on the Holistic Approach of Decarbonization towards Carbon Neutrality

Name of SCE Sub-Fora				Health Working Group (HWG)				
SCE-COW Participation in 2021				Yes				
Related Ministerial Meetings				11 th High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (24 August 2021)				
Year of Last Fora Assessment				2021				
2021 Meetings				APEC Projects in 2021				
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁸	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
27 February & 2 March	53	32	18	Y	15	13	2	1,630,278
19-20 August	53	40	18	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)				Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender				
Response to COVID-19				Co-hosted with LSIF the 11 th High Level Meeting on Health and Economy and endorsed the Ministerial Joint Statement.				
Cross-Fora Collaborations				LSIF, EPWG, TPTWG, PPSTI, PPWE				
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities				Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery				

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	0
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Hearing Damage Prevention Due to Recreational Noise Exposure in Young People: Prevention Recommendations and Initiatives • Increasing Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention in the APEC Region: A Literature Review of the Economic Impacts and Levels of Preparedness • Capacity Building for Community-based Long-term Care
Last Website Update	July 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APEC Press Release “APEC Ministers: Invest in Health Equity to Revive Prosperity” • APEC Press Release “the 11th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy Joint Statement”

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
HWG 02 2019A	Symposium about Early Hearing Damage Prevention in Young People (19-23 April 2021) (Chile)
HWG 01 2020A	Digital Tools for Addressing Infectious Disease in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities (25-26 August 2021) (Chinese Taipei)

⁸ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					YES			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁹	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
20-27 May	69	49	19	Y	16	6	10	760,919.75
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities <i>(eg. Sustainable Growth)</i>					Sustainable Growth			
Response to COVID-19					<p>1) New Zealand moderated the Panel Discussion titled “the Changing Nature of Work and Employment in the context of COVID-19”. Six international experts including WB, ILO, OECD, ADB, PSU and New Zealand Productivity Commission were invited to present in two sessions: “Global and Regional Overview of the Labour Market Effects” and “Economic and Social Policies responding to the COVID-19”.</p> <p>2) LSPN held a panel discussion on the impact on vulnerable groups across the Asia-Pacific and the role of labour and social protections in the times of COVID-19.</p> <p>3) EDNET held a panel discussion on the impact of COVID-19 for Better Quality Assurance and Increased Recognition of Online Qualifications.</p> <p>4) Russia proposed a Concept Note on “Comparative study of the best APEC practices for digitalizing lifelong learning systems for vulnerable groups in the era of COVID-19” and received approval in principle from BMC.</p>			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					GOS, EC, HWG, PPWE, SMEWG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery 			

⁹ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	4
Last Website Update	August 2021 (EDNET page)
Media/Outreach Opportunities	Investing in Digital Upskilling and Reskilling of APEC's Workforce is Critical: Report (Washington, United States, 23 February 2021, issued by Human Resources Development Working Group, APEC News Releases link)

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
HRD 01 2019A	APEC Cross-Border Human Capacity Building for Globalized Scientific Literacy for Future Citizenship: Phase 2_Longitudinal Exchange and Community Formation of STEM+ Education for School Girls, Women, and Teacher Professional Development
HRD 02 2019A	Regional Industry-Academia Collaboration for Talent Development and Inclusive Growth: An Exchange of Skills Training, Internships and Jobs (II)
HRD 03 2019A	New Media Digital Upskilling Women's Economic Empowerment (WEDU)
HRD 04 2019A	APEC Forum on Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship (II): Building Capacity and Collaborative Connectivity for Young Entrepreneurs
HRD 06 2019A	Actualization of Integrated STEM Degree Programmes: A Model to Inform, Catalyze and Shape Inter- and Trans-disciplinary University Education
HRD 08 2019A	Industry-Academia-Government (IAG) Collaboration on Alternative Re-Employment Project for Aging Population: An Innovative Employment Management Model (IEMM)
HRD 02 2020	Workshop on Social Protection for Digital Platform Economy
HRD 03 2020	APEC Symposium on Developing New Leadership Capabilities in Response to the Work Evolution in the Digital Age
HRD 05 2020A	2020 APEC Forum on Closing the Digital Skills Gap: A Focus on Measurement and Digital Readiness
HRD 06 2020A	2021 APEC Forum on Social Dialogue as a tool to address labour market challenges
HRD 09 2020A	ASD-CBA Project Promoting APEC Innovative Caregiving through Digital Upskilling
HRD 01 2021S	2021 APEC e-Learning Training (AeLT) Program
HRD 02 2021S	Top Performing Schools in Asia Pacific Region: Curriculum, Teacher and Assessment - Raising the Bar and Narrowing the Gap
HRD 03 2021S	Gauging Demand and Supply of Technical and Vocational Education and Resolving Skill Mismatch

HRD 04 2021S	University Admission in Asia Pacific Region: Processes, Policies and Strategies
HRD 05 2021S	Digitalization and Emerging Employment Patterns: Challenges and Responses
HRD 06 2021S	2021 APEC Sport Innovation Education Program
HRD 07 2021S	APEC Learning Community for Shared Prosperity (ALCom) Phase 2: Guaranteeing Education Continuity in the APEC Region, using Digital Technology
HRD 08 2021S	APEC Community for Education Innovation (CEDI) Phase 2: School Leadership Development Program for Enhanced Resilience in Education in the APEC Region
HRD 09 2021S	10th APEC Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education in Asia-Pacific Region "Ten Years Standing Together: Global Education Foresight" (APEC CCHE 2021)
HRD 10 2021S	The 17th APEC Future Education Forum and the 19th International ALCoB Conference

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁰	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
25-26 February	45	40	20	Y	10	8	2	827,683
17-18 August	47	51	18	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing human capital through capacity building Harnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovation Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth 			
Response to COVID-19					N/A			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPFS, PPWE, PPSTI, CD, TWG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free and open trade Increasing inclusion and sustainability 			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	2/2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

¹⁰ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
OFWG 04 2019A	Promoting APEC Innovative Models in Reducing and Managing Land-based Debris into Oceans for Sustainable Development (Viet Nam)
OFWG 01 2020A	Capacity-building Workshop on implementation of Port State Measures under the APEC Roadmap on Combatting IUU Fishing (New Zealand)
OFWG 05 2020A	Developing an APEC Best Practices Framework to Address Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (the United States)
OFWG 01 2021S	Webinar Series on Driving Seabird Conservation through International Cooperation (New Zealand)
OFWG 02 2021S	Transparency as a Tool for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Chile)

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Policy Partnership for Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					No			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹¹	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
25 February	54	47	20	Y	10	9	1	910,251
26 August	53	35	18	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 2021) PPSTI hosted a policy discussion to explore how the APEC region <u>could further leverage diverse knowledge and experiences to support inclusive and sustainable growth for post-COVID recovery</u>. In addition, experts discussed how to build trust in science through strategies on communicating scientific advice to governments and to the public. In August 2021, Korea and Australia co-hosted the APEC Research and Technology 2021 Seminar on “<i>STI cooperation for the Sustainable and resilient system after COVID-19</i>”. The seminar discussed the importance of emerging and digital technologies in building resilience in STI systems. 			
Response to COVID-19					Issuance of the PPSTI Statement on Building Resilience in STI on 26 August, 2021			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PPWE: Inputs on La Serena Roadmap Implementation Plan. HWG: Webinar on Digital Tools for Addressing Infectious Disease in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities. HWG: Participate in the APEC Health Working Group meeting on August 19 EWG: Project Proposal on Green Synergy Solutions for Sustainable Community on Agriculture Residue-Based Energy and Circular Economy. 			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the APEC 2021 theme “<i>Join, Work, Grow Together</i>” and policy priorities, including “<i>Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for</i> 			

¹¹ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

	<p><i>Recovery</i>” and <i>“Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery”</i>, PPSTI’s 2021 theme was <i>“Building Resilience in STI Systems for post-COVID Recovery and Future Shocks”</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout 2021, PPSTI advanced this theme through the following 2021 PPSTI priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Leveraging Diverse Knowledge Systems for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth; 2) Strengthening Digital Networks and Tools to Support Capacity Building and Advance Science, Technology and Innovation; and 3) Building Public Trust through Open Science and Communication. • Specifically, (in February 2021) PPSTI hosted a policy discussion to explore how the APEC region could further leverage diverse knowledge and experiences to support inclusive and sustainable growth for post-COVID recovery. In addition, experts discussed how to build trust in science through strategies on communicating scientific advice to governments and to the public. • In August 2021, Korea and Australia co-hosted the APEC Research and Technology 2021 Seminar on <i>“STI cooperation for the Sustainable and resilient system after COVID-19”</i>. The seminar discussed the importance of emerging and digital technologies in building resilience in STI systems. • As a result of these discussions, PPSTI endorsed the PPSTI Statement on Building Resilience in STI, which focuses on the outcomes from the aforementioned policy dialogues and supports New Zealand’s Host Year priorities.
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Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	Nil
Publications	Nil
Last Website Update	September 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	Press Statement on the 2021 ASPIRE Award

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
PPSTI 01 2019	Research Network for Women in STEAM
PPSTI 03 2019A	APEC Start-ups Incubator Capacity Building Symposium towards Digital Society
PPSTI 05 2019	Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM): Best Practices, Norms and their Implementation within APEC Region
PPSTI 08 2019A	The Innovation in Public Transportation (INPUT) Competition
PPSTI 09 2019A	Capacity Building for Digital Innovation using Block-chain technology
PPSTI 01 2020A	APEC Climate Symposium 2020 - Innovations in Climate Communication for Enhancing Human Security to Manage Risks of Climate Extremes
PPSTI 02 2020A	AI Policy Recommendation on Digital Transformation for Healthcare Ecosystem

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					Women and the Economy Forum			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded¹²	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
25-27 May	56	18	19	Y	1	1	0	50,000
17-21 August	65	14	20	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities <i>(eg. Sustainable Growth)</i>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing human capital through capacity building • Harnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovation • Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender • Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth 			
Response to COVID-19					Ministerial statement emphasizing disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women was issued as deliverables of the WEF (Women and the Economy Forum) meeting on 24 September.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					ACTWG, HRDWG, SMEWG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery • Pursuing Innovation Through a Digitally Enabled Recovery 			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	1
Last Website Update	August 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	<p>Sep.24 Press Release in connection with Women and the Economy Forum Statement (<i>Ministers Issue Statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment Post-COVID-19</i>)</p> <p>Sep.24 Press Release in connection with Women and the Economy Forum Statement (<i>Minister: Women’s Economic Empowerment is Key to Stronger, More Resilient Economy</i>)</p> <p>Sep.28 Press Release in connection with Healthy Women, Healthy Economy Research Prize (<i>Impact of Care Work on Women’s Economic Participation Wins APEC Healthy Women Healthy Economy Research Prize</i>)</p>

¹² Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
PPWE 01 2019	APEC Capacity Building on Restructuring Women-led MSMEs in Textile Garment (T&I) Industry in the New Era (Viet Nam)
PPWE 02 2019	APEC Women Builders Creating Inclusive Future (Chinese Taipei)
PPWE 03 2019	Harnessing Fintech for Women-led MSMEs for Promoting Inclusive Growth (Viet Nam)
PPWE 04 2019	Women's Leadership in Digital Era: Agility, Adaptability, Fluency (Malaysia)
PPWE 01 2020	Workshop for Policy Makers in APEC: Strengthening Women's Empowerment and Leadership Through Digital Economy in Boosting Economic Growth (Indonesia)
PPWE 02 2020A	The Future of Women at Work: Empowering Women's Role in the Transition Era of Automation (Indonesia)
PPWE 03 2020A	Individual Action Plan (IAP) for the Enhancement for the Ratio of Women's Representation in Leadership (Final Review Study and Online Workshop) (Japan)
PPWE 04 2020A	Gender Data for Structural Reform (New Zealand)
PPWE 05 2020A	Effects of policies promoting the work-life balance in the development of women who lead MSMEs, in the context of the post-COVID-19 economic recovery (Peru) (subject to BMC approval)
PPWE 06 2020A	COVID-19 Indigenous and Diverse Women-led MSME Responses (New Zealand)
PPWE 07 2020A	The untapped economic potential of including women in the digital economy in the APEC region (Chile)
PPWE 01 2021	Promoting Gender Equality in the Telecommunications Industry for the Inclusive Recovery
Self-funded Initiative	APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Policy Dialogue and Research Prize (Chile)
Self-funded Initiative	APEC Business Efficiency and Success Target (BEST) Award 2021 (Russia)

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					YES			
Related Ministerial Meetings					SME Ministerial Meeting (9 October)			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2020			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹³	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
18-19 May	125 (no gender-disaggregated data)		20	Yes	18	7	10	APEC funding: 713,688
23-24 Sept	51	32	20	Yes				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					SMEs/Inclusive Growth/ Regional Economic Integration/ Technologies and Innovation / Human Capital Development			
Response to COVID-19					Best practices sharing to foster SMEs resilience during the current COVID-19 crisis.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PPWE: PPWE Chair participated at SMEWG meeting. SMEWG Chair participated at PPWE meeting. 2. Dissemination of projects and events from different fora to the SMEWG (ACTWG, CTI, EPWG, GOS, PPF, SCSC) 			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery • Pursuing Innovation Through a Digitally Enabled Recovery 			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	4
Last Website Update	September 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

¹³ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
SME 01 2019	Workshop for SMEs in APEC: Embracing 4.0 Industrial Revolution in Boosting Economic Performance of Export-Oriented SMEs
SME 02 2019A	APEC Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges for Retail SMEs in the Internet and Digital Economy
SME 06 2019A	APEC Policy Dialogue on SMEs and Entrepreneurship Framework: Let's be Coherent and Cohesive
SME 11 2019A	Towards MSMEs Internationalisation: Study on the Final Review of the Boracay Action Agenda and Forum on Building Global MSMEs
SME 01 2020A	2021 Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Forum: Updating APEC Principles to Strengthen the Medical Device and Biopharmaceutical Sectors
SME 02 2020A	APEC Symposium and Workshop on Technology Roadmaps (TR) to Promote Industry 4.0 in Developing APEC Economies
SME 07 2020A	2021 APEC Workshop on Business Continuity Planning with Crisis Management for SMEs/MSMEs
SME 03 2021S	SME Mental Health and Wellbeing Workshop
SME 05 2021S	Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative: Government Stakeholder Session
SME 04 2021S	Women-Owned SME Exporters: Overcoming Obstacles and Succeeding Internationally
SME 06 2021S	SMEs in the Asia-Pacific Region: Recovery and Internationalisation - Connecting Research to Policy-Making
SME 09 2021S	APEC Cross-Domain Innovation Ecosystem Initiative: Facilitate the Inclusive Growth of SMEs through the Digital Platform Across the APEC Region

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					TELMIN – 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁴	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
23 Feb – 4 Mar 2021	44	34	18	Y	4	0	4	\$100,000
10-19 Aug 2021	56	48	19	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Capital Development Technologies and Innovation Inclusive Growth Sustainable Growth Human Security 			
Response to COVID-19					TEL is implementing the “APEC TEL Initiative on Global Challenges and Cooperation Utilizing ICT – COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond”, endorsed in October 2020, which outlines possible areas for initiatives to address current COVID-19 and other prospective global crises, especially by utilizing ICT and emerging digital technology.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Regulatory challenges to promote the development of the Digital Economy: A Consumer Empowerment Perspective”: DESG TEL-DESG Joint Meeting and PPD 			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					TEL activities supported the 2021 host year priority “Pursuing Innovation and Digitally Enabled Recovery” by focusing on ICT infrastructure, digital inclusion, and the use of digital technologies for economic recovery.			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	September 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

¹⁴ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
TEL 02 2020S	Workshop on Open Data for Digital Economy Growth
TEL 03 2020S	Network Virtualization, Disaggregated Networks and Open Telecommunications Architecture in APEC
TEL 01 2021S	Regulatory challenges to promote the development of the Digital Economy: A Consumer Empowerment Perspective
TEL 02 2021S	Building a Digital Ready Society

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Tourism Working Group (TWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					YES			
Related Ministerial Meetings					Tourism Ministerial Meeting (2020)			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁵	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
May 17	25	27	18	Y	3	3	5	\$1,204,000
Sep.15	47	27	18	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities <i>(eg. Sustainable Growth)</i>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing human capital through capacity building Harnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovation Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth 			
Response to COVID-19					Tourism has been hardest hit by the pandemic. TWG projects such as TWG 04 2020S and TWG 04 2021S have focused on the COVID-19 response and recovery.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<p>TWG Lead Shepherd participated in First and Second Roundtable on Safe Passage organized by Troika (New Zealand, Thailand and Malaysia) with other sub-fora convenors/chairs.</p> <p>TWG Lead Shepherd also participated in Air Crew & Supply Chain Continuity Roundtable organized by TPTWG.</p>			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery Pursuing Innovation Through a Digitally Enabled Recovery 			

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	1
Last Website Update	June 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

¹⁵ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
TWG 01 2019A	Developing Community Based Entrepreneurship in Rural Tourism Through Digital Empowerment (Malaysia)
TWG 01 2020	APEC Study on Assessment of the Level of Vulnerability of Tourism to Regional and Global Crises focused on Micro and Small Tourism Enterprises: Opportunity for Risk Management including the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) (Peru)
TWG 04 2020S	Exploring innovative digitalisation for tourism MSMEs in developing APEC economies: what can we learn from tourism's response to COVID-19? (Australia)
TWG 05 2020S	People living with disability: best practice guidelines for tourism MSMEs in APEC (Australia)
TWG 01 2021S	Webinar on addressing the Critical Need for Tourism Crisis Management (Japan)
TWG 02 2021S	Seminar on Asia & Pacific Sustainable Development of Tourism Vocational Education (China)
TWG 03 2021S	Virtual Event: "International Week of Tourism for All, Fair and Sustainable Tourism" (Peru)
TWG 04 2021S	APEC Workshop on the Future of Tourism and the Use of Innovative Technologies in Tourism (Korea)
TWG 05 2021S	Self-Funded: Develop and disseminate best practices on the application of visitor management techniques in APEC economies (Thailand)

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Transportation Working Group (TPTWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2021					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2021			
2021 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2021			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁶	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Persons by Gender		Economies					
	Women	Men						
3-March-21	25	31	18	Y	5	5	0	462,197
5-March-21	32	75	18	Y				
9-March-21	27	37	17	Y				
10-March-21	41	54	18	Y				
25-March-21	36	45	20	Y				
8-June-21	37	65	17	Y				
21-June-21	38	58	17	Y				
30-June-21	28	39	16	Y				
6-July-21	52	101	17	Y				
14-July-21	61	82	17	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (e.g. Sustainable Growth)								
Response to COVID-19					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TPTWG hosted a Roundtable on Air Crews and Supply Chain Continuity that sought to identify avenues for improving the expedient movement of air crews in the APEC region during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has direct implications for the strength and resiliency of critical supply chains. The Maritime Expert Group held a session on the recovery of the cruise industry the session looked to share strategies and measures economies are implementing to 			

¹⁶ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2021 Project Session #1 and #2

	prepare for reopening of the cruise industry.
Cross-Fora Collaborations	BMG, TWG, were invited to the Roundtable on Air Crews and Supply Chain Continuity
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities	<p><i>Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptive Technologies and the Changing Nature of Work in the Transportation Sector report focused on women and the disabled as workers who are underrepresented in traditional transportation occupations. • Held a thematic policy session on: “Digital Solutions for Road Safety: Emergency Response Systems, Electric, Automated and Connected Vehicles, and Safe Infrastructure. – this event included a focus on electric vehicles. • The Aviation Expert Group held a thematic policy session on “Drones, Concentrating on Operations below 500 Feet Above Ground Level” <p><i>Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery:</i> TPTWG held a thematic session on ‘Facilitating mobility integration through technological innovation’ to discuss the impacts of ‘Mobility as a Service’ on reducing transport emissions, climate change, social equity and provision of safe and affordable accessibility for women and other vulnerable or traditionally underserved transportation users</p>

Communications 2021	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Aviation Efficiency and Safety via Performance-based Communications and Surveillance • Disruptive Technologies and the Changing Nature of Work in the Transportation Sector
Last Website Update	June 2021
Media/Outreach Opportunities	Roundtable on Air Crews and Supply Chain Continuity

List current projects: This is just the **current projects** that had events in 2021

Project No.	Project Title
TPT 03 2019A	SENAP Onboard Training to Foster Competent Young Future Maritime Global Leaders (Hosted one virtual workshop)
TPT 04 2019A	Combating Human Trafficking by Addressing Illicit Uses
TPT 06 2019A	Enhancing Aviation Efficiency and Safety Via Performance Based Communications and Surveillance (Hosted three online webinars)
TPT 02 2020A	Building Randomness and Unpredictability into Aviation Security Countermeasure Development and Implementation (Hosted one virtual workshop, one self-funded webinar)
TPT 03 2020A	Maximizing APEC SEN Cross-Border Labor Mobility of Seafarers for the Digital Age
TPT 07 2020A	Workshop – Building a Culture of Security and Countering the Insider Risk (Hosted one virtual event)
TPT 02 2019S	APEC SEN (Seafarers Excellence Network) Strategic Development and Management Planning for Sustainable Future
TPT 01 2020S	APEC Seafarers Excellence Network (APEC SEN) Maritime English Communication Package
TPT 02 2020S	APEC SEN Mental Health Training Curriculum to Empower Well-being of Life Onboard for Seafarers across the APEC Region

4. Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 2021 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

1. *Note the 2021 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;*
2. *Welcome the achievements of the SCE Working Groups and Policy Partnerships;*
3. *Welcome 2021 contributions to the APEC Support Funds various sub-funds from Australia; Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Chinese Taipei; and the United States.*

SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2021 Work Plan

1. Proposed Work for 2021 in Response to Leaders/Ministers/SOM Decisions and SCE Priorities.

- Provide policy recommendations that are related to ECOTECH groups to SOM;
- Coordinate and supervise all ECOTECH-related Working Groups and Policy Partnerships, including reviewing and recommending any fora's ToR revision to SOM;
- Review the operation and effectiveness of the SCE;
- Provide policy guidance on the ECOTECH agenda in the development of sub-fora strategic plans;
- Continue to implement SCE's Decision on Standardized Fora Assessment program;
- Determine eligibility and score concept notes applying for funding under ASF sub-funds assigned to the responsibility of the SCE; and,
- Consolidate the SCE Fora Reports and prepare annual SOM Report on ECOTECH to Ministers.

2. Strengthening coordination among and across sub-fora

- Coordinate the efforts and promote cross-fora collaboration of SCE sub-fora in implementing the 2040 Putrajaya Vision;
- Promote cross-fora collaboration across APEC sub-fora, including through implementation of the 2016 Recommendations on Cross-Fora Collaboration together with the 2017 APEC Guidelines on Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration;
- Review and consider any possible options to make the SCE and SCE COW arrangements more effective; and
- Supervise or coordinate cross-cutting issues and specific initiatives assigned to SCE.

3. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2021

- Implementation of Standardized Fora Assessment Program, including convening of the Assessment Team for 2021;
- Consideration of new ways to strengthen cross fora collaboration through the SCE process;
- Approval of the SCE sub-fora's annual work plans;
- Continue oversight of SCE projects and initiatives (list on following page);
- Review and approval of the Strategic Plans for those sub-fora with expiring strategic plans;

- Review and recommendation of the revised ToRs of certain sub-fora to SOM, including in connection with governance reforms agreed by SOM in 2017;
- Submission of the annual SOM Report on ECOTECH to Ministers at AMM 2021; and
- Review and make recommendation to SOM on those sub-fora with expiring Terms of Reference

SCE Projects and Initiatives	Project Number	Lead Economy
Inclusive Digital Society: Alleviating Poverty and Improving Living Standards through Increased Economic Growth		China
Initiative for Realizing Sustainable Cities Focusing on Improvement of Resources Circulation and Waste Management	SCE 01 2019A	Japan
Completion Assessment of APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goals	SCE 01 2019S	China
APEC Case Study: Best Practices of Smart Cities in the Digital Age	SCE 02 2019S	Chile and China
Multi-Year Policy Dialogue on Innovative Waste Management	SCE 01 2020S	Malaysia
Case Studies on Advancing Inclusive Economies: Understanding and Valuing Indigenous Economies	SCE 02 2020S	New Zealand

4. Current SCE Projects and Initiatives

SCE Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda 2021

Background

1. The SCE has tasked “the Secretariat to undertake a strategic assessment of synergies within the ECOTECH agenda after SOM1 and provide recommendations to SCE2 about gaps that may require SCE attention or direction” (point 7 of *SCE Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC* (2013/SOM3/030)).
2. The first report by the APEC Secretariat (2014/SOM2/SCE/004) was submitted to the SCE2 in 2014. The second report was presented to the SCE2 in 2015.
3. The 2021 report has been rationalised somewhat from previous versions. The fora work plans are not attached. One is invited to review the 2021 Work Plans of the SCE sub-fora on the SCE ACS page. In addition, the template has been refined in recent years to request sub-fora to specify which other sub-fora or organisations it plans to collaborate with, and how. Similar reporting is sought in the template for annual Fora Reports submitted later in the APEC year.

Review of the annual work plans of the SCE fora

4. The APEC Secretariat analysed thirteen (13) sub-fora work plans: ACTWG, ATCWG, EGILAT, EPWG, EWG, HRDWG, HWG, OFWG, PPSTI, PPWE, SMEWG, TELWG, and TWG submitted as of 29 April 2021. The Secretariat analysis came to the following broad conclusions:
 - SCE sub-fora identified over 130 areas of potential cross-fora collaboration.
 - Potential collaboration is being identified with other SCE sub-fora as well as with the sub-fora of the Economic Committee, the Committee on Trade and Investment, and the Finance Ministers Process/Senior Finance Officials’ Meeting.
 - Collaboration is not confined to the same or the more obvious partners but rather is diverse, and often differs from project to project.
 - The most active sub-fora in terms of collaboration are PPWE and SMEWG. The sub-fora with the fewest self-reported collaborations are ACTWG and EGILAT.
 - A number of SCE sub-fora identify potential collaboration with external partners, including international and regional organisations such as the United Nations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, INTERPOL, International Energy Agency, ILO, WHO and OECD, or non-governmental organisations such as the International Air Transport Association and Transparency International, to name but a few.
 - Only two work plans have explicitly identified potential collaborations with ABAC. There likely is scope for more frequent collaboration with ABAC as well as ASEAN and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, given their respective roles within the broader APEC process.

Discussion on how to promote cross-fora collaboration

5. At SCE3 in 2016, SCE members adopted eight recommendations to promote cross-fora collaboration (see 2016/SOM3/SCE/002).

6. The SCE Chair and the Secretariat together with the SCE fora have been implementing these recommendations since SCE3 of 2016. In 2021, a thematic discussion focused on key fora deliverables and cross-fora opportunities was at the heart of the SCE-COW agenda. The CTI, EC, BMC, ABAC, and SFOM Chairs were invited to attend the 2021 SCE-COW. The Secretariat maintains all key documents of the SCE fora (ie Terms of References, Strategic Plans, annual Work Plans and annual Fora Reports) on the APEC Collaboration System (ACS). The virtual format of APEC in 2021 has increased participation by SCE sub-fora conveners, with attendance by all conveners for the first time since 2017.
7. The completion of the Putrajaya Vision Implementation Plan may offer an opportunity for the SCE to examine the eight recommendations to promote cross-fora collaborations and consider if additional recommendations are necessary.

Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives 2021

Introduction

1. In line with the recommendations for *Strengthening Economic and Technical Cooperation in APEC* issued in 2010, the APEC Secretariat Executive Director provides an annual report on how SCE sub-fora work plans address APEC's overall vision and objectives.
2. The SCE sub-fora annual work plans are tabled at the annual SCE-Committee of the Whole Meeting (SCE-COW) seeking approval in accordance with the recommendations of the 2010 ECOTECH Report.
3. The 2021 alignment report considers how well the activities set out in the work plans align with the priorities established by Leaders and Ministers and the annual 2021 APEC priorities.
4. The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to continued region-wide travel disruptions as well as a shift of focus on work toward COVID-19 related issues.

Status of Work Plan Submission

5. The SCE Terms of Reference stipulate that Working Groups and Policy Partnerships should submit their annual work plans three weeks prior to the annual SCE-COW on the margins of SCE1. The APEC Secretariat analyzed [thirteen (13)] sub-fora work plans: Anti-Corruption Working Group; Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group; Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade; Emergency Preparedness Working Group; Energy Working Group; Human Resources Development Working Group; Health Working Group; Oceans and Fisheries Working Group; Policy Partnership for Science, Technology, and Innovation; Policy Partnership for Women and the Economy; Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group; Telecommunications and Information Working Group; and Tourism Working Group as of 30 April 2021.
6. The work plans of Emergency Preparedness Working Group; Experts' Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade; Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation; Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group; Telecommunications Working Group; and the Tourism Working Group were submitted at SCE-COW as they were endorsed by the respective sub-fora.
7. The SCE sub-fora are asked to develop their work plans in accordance with a template approved at SCE2 2016. In 2017, guidance was added to the template to encourage identification of gender-related initiatives or aspects thereof. Additional guidance was provided in 2021 to focus reporting on those deliverables that align with the 2021 priorities.
8. The Secretariat conducted an analysis of the work plans and came to the following general conclusions:

Alignment of Work Plans with Broader APEC Objectives

- The majority of SCE sub-fora focused their activities to respond to the mandates given to them by the Leaders and Ministers. The majority of sub-fora, such as ATCWG, HWG, OFWG and PPWE, and SMEWG specifically cite recent instructions of Ministers.
- 11 out of 13 refer to 2021 APEC priorities.
- All work plans also make linkages between their specific activities and the relevant ECOTECH Medium Term Priorities, which is facilitated by the template.

- 10 of the 15 work plans have specific references to the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth and gendered perspective projects or work streams.

Planning Elements (Cross-fora collaboration, Capacity Building and Expected Deliverables)

- All submitted work plans identify some degree of collaboration with other sub-fora on cross-cutting topics. The Secretariat presents its analysis in a separate paper.
- Most initiatives and projects have been identified as capacity building, which is in keeping with ECOTECH priorities.
- Ten of the work plans responded to the work plan guidance seeking identification of gender-related initiatives or aspect thereof.
- There remains room for improvement amongst sub-fora work plans focusing on deliverables, or outputs and outcomes, which advance APEC priorities, rather than on activities and routine administrative issues.
- Reforms to the SCE-COW arrangements have aided a focus on concrete deliverables.

Executive Director Comment

9. Upon completion of the Putrajaya Vision Implementation Plan revision of the work plan template could help groups focus on those areas of the Vision and Implementation Plan that are most pertinent to their respective fora leading to clear concise work plans.
10. A continued emphasis on expected deliverables in work plan preparation could aid Senior Officials and conveners in maximizing capacity building through cross-fora collaboration.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
ACTWG	Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group
ACT-NET	Anti-Corruption Authorities & Law Enforcement Agencies
AMM	APEC Ministerial Meeting
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ART	APEC Research and Technology
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASF	APEC Support Fund
ASPIRE	Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education
ATCWG	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group
BCP	Business Continuity Plans
BMC	Budget and Management Committee
BMG	Business Mobility Group (<i>a sub-fora of CTI</i>)
CEEDS	Cooperative Energy Efficiency Design for Sustainability
CSOM	Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
CTWG	Counter-Terrorism Working Group
DARE	Data Analytics Raising Employment
EC	Economic Committee
ECOTECH	Economic and Technical Cooperation
EGILAT	Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade
EPWG	Emergency Preparedness Working Group
ESCI	Energy Smart Communities Initiative
ESI	Energy Security Initiative

EWG	Energy Working Group
FMP	Finance Ministers' Process
FOTC	Friends of the Chair
FTAAP & GVCs	Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and Global Value Chains
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GPA	General Project Account
HLPDAB	High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology
HRDWG	Human Resources Development Working Group
HWG	Health Working Group
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IERG	Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth
IOV	Internet of Vehicles
LCMT	Low Carbon Model Town
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategies
MOI	Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues Steering Council
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
MRA-CA	MRA for Conformity Assessment
MRM	Ministers Responsible for Mining
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
O2O	APEC Online-Offline
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OFWG	Ocean and Fisheries Working Group
PBN	Performance Based Navigation
PMU	Project Management Unit, APEC Secretariat
PPFS	Policy Partnership on Food Security

PPSTI	Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation
PPWE	Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy
PSU	Policy Support Unit, APEC Secretariat
REI	Regional Economic Integration
SCCP	Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (<i>a sub-fora of CTI</i>)
SCE	Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation
SCE-COW	SCE Committee of the Whole
SCSC	Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (<i>a sub-fora of CTI</i>)
SDMOF	Senior Disaster Management Officials Meeting
SMEWG	Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TELWG	Telecommunications and Information Working Group
TFI	Trade Facilitation Initiative
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalisation Fund
TPTWG	Transportation Working Group
TWG	Tourism Working Group
US-SEGA	US-Support for Economic Growth in Asia

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